

# High-throughput Structural Biology

## Structural Proteomics of Rational Targets (SPoRT)



BBSRC seeks to invest at least £14M in support of an initiative on the development of high-throughput techniques (HTP) in protein structure determination. The scientific case for this initiative was developed during a review of the requirements for structural biology in the UK that took place during 2002. The full report is available on the BBSRC website ([www.bbsrc.ac.uk](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk)).

### The objectives of the initiative are:

- To establish in the UK an internationally competitive capability in high throughput approaches to the expression, isolation, purification and structure/function determination of biological macromolecules. This capability must be achieved as part of a programme aimed at producing detailed descriptions of the structure and molecular functions of cellular complexes and/or pathways of major biological importance.
- To disseminate information on techniques and methods generated by the projects to the wider scientific community in order to improve the efficiency of the UK structural biology community and to extend techniques (e.g. in protein production) to wider parts of the BBSRC community.
- To produce a cohort of researchers trained in both the development and the use of these state-of-the-art techniques.



Applications for large-scale, scientific and technologically challenging multidisciplinary research projects are invited for up to five years' duration. BBSRC is keen to support a small number of large-scale projects under this initiative and reserves the right to transfer applications to responsive mode if they do not fit the criteria for this initiative. BBSRC also reserves the right to reject applications that are not appropriate to the remit of BBSRC.

**The closing date for the receipt of applications is 15 September 2003.** Outline applications are NOT required.

All academic members of staff in UK universities who are eligible to apply for BBSRC responsive mode grants are eligible to apply to this initiative. In addition, members of BBSRC-sponsored Institutes are also eligible to apply.

Potential applicants are strongly advised to read the additional information for this initiative located on the BBSRC web site ([www.bbsrc.ac.uk/science/initiatives](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/science/initiatives)) **before** submitting an application.

A town meeting will be held on 16th June 2003 in London to provide more details about the initiative. Applicants are requested to register for the town meeting by nominating no more than two representatives from their institution to attend the meeting (contact [pete.kennewell@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:pete.kennewell@bbsrc.ac.uk) or [debbie.harding@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:debbie.harding@bbsrc.ac.uk) to register for the town meeting).

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## BIOMEDICAL AND SOCIETAL RESEARCH INTO BEER AND ALCOHOL

An independent European research charity, to fund biological and related research into beer and alcohol, similar in size and constitution to the ABMRP of North America, has been established with funding from The Brewers of Europe.

The independent European Research Advisory Board (ERAB) invites applications for funding of any aspect of biological or psychosocial research into beer or alcohol from researchers from an established European research institution or university.

Applications will be independently externally peer reviewed.

It is anticipated that, in the first round of applications, maximum funding for a single project is unlikely to exceed 5000 euros. Maximum length of project will be two years.

An electronic application form may be obtained from the office of Professor O. F. W. James, Chair of the ERAB ([O.F.W.james@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:O.F.W.james@ncl.ac.uk)).

The closing date for application is 7 July 2003.

(2314)A

Dr James, Cefn Coch, Glan Conwy LL28 5PE

At the celebration of the delineation of the double helix, it appears that the highly evolved system, the origin of life is still enigmatic. Fred Hoyle's 'panspermia' merely passes the buck to another planet. In the 1940s a self-replicating polypeptide seemed a possibility since it is thermodynamically more stable than DNA. Currently Graham's Salt is the most likely possibility and DNA are to be viewed as substituted polyphosphates.

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15 MAY 2003 | [www.naturejobs.com](http://www.naturejobs.com)

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

**Philip Morris USA Inc.** announces the availability of its 2003 Request for Applications booklet for the Philip Morris External Research Program.

The broad range of research interests includes the following scientific areas:

*Exposure/Biomarkers/Dosimetry,  
Epidemiological Research,  
Clinical and Model Systems Research, and  
Tobacco Smoke and Smoking Behavior.*

**Letters of intent are due by July 15, 2003.**

**Applications must be received by August 31, 2003.**

For more information or a copy of the 2003 Request for Applications booklet, please call or write Research Management Group, coordinator for the Philip Morris External Research Program.

**Research Management Group  
Attn: Research Manager  
1099 Winterson Road, Suite 280  
Linthicum Heights  
Maryland 21090-2216 USA**

**Telephone: (410) 684-3782  
Fax: (410) 684-3729  
Email: [rmgroup2000@aol.com](mailto:rmgroup2000@aol.com)**

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**Research Management Group**  
Attn: Research Manager  
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Linthicum Heights, Maryland 21090-2216  
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Telephone: (410) 684-3782  
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Email: rmgroup2000@aol.com

## AAAS AND *Science* MAGAZINE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF *Science* INTERNATIONAL

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DR. ALAN LESHNER, *CEO, AAAS and Executive Publisher, Science magazine*

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## AWARDS



## New South Wales Government, Australia NSW BioFirst Awards Round 3 Call for Applications

The New South Wales Government's BioFirst Awards Program is a major initiative arising from the whole-of-Government biotechnology strategy BioFirst, launched by the NSW Premier, The Hon Bob Carr MP, in August 2001.

A NSW BioFirst Award will top up a package being created by a publicly funded research institution in NSW to attract a biotechnology research worker to NSW. An Award is a one-line grant of \$100,000 a year for three years. Up to five new Awards will be offered in this round. Institutions will be permitted to use the BioFirst Award funding flexibly.

Two BioFirst Awards funding rounds have previously been conducted. The NSW Government is again looking to attract to New South Wales outstanding individuals with exceptional, internationally renowned research careers in disciplines relevant to biotechnology in areas such as health, agriculture, environment, and bioinformatics.

Individual research workers who are interested in applying for a NSW BioFirst Award should contact appropriate NSW institutions to discuss opportunities to work in NSW. **Research workers already resident in New South Wales are not eligible.** One joint application completed by the researcher and the institution should be submitted to the BioFirst Awards Committee.

**Closing date for applications: 27 June 2003.**

Further information and the format of the application may be obtained from the following NSW Government department websites:

[www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)      [www.biofirst.nsw.gov.au](http://www.biofirst.nsw.gov.au)

Enquiries about the BioFirst Awards may be addressed to:

Ms Rowena Tucker, Principal Policy Analyst for Biotechnology  
Research & Development Policy Branch, NSW Department of Health  
73 Miller Street, North Sydney NSW 2059 Australia  
Tel: +61 2 9391 9208, Fax: +61 2 9391 9232  
Email: [rtuck@doh.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rtuck@doh.health.nsw.gov.au)

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## FELLOWSHIPS

### The Keck Fellows Program for Imaging at UCSF

Applications are being solicited for the appointment of two Keck Imaging Fellows at the new Mission Bay campus of the University of California, San Francisco. The goal is to bring talented independent young scientists whose research is at the forefront of cryo electron microscopy and/or image analysis into our diverse and interactive research community. Keck Fellows pursue their research without the obligations of faculty membership or the constraints of a conventional postdoctoral fellowship. Thus, the Fellows Program provides an alternative or a supplement to traditional postdoctoral study following the M.D. or Ph.D. degree, and an opportunity to establish a creative and successful research program prior to obtaining a faculty position.

Keck Fellows receive salary and annual funding for research support. They may seek extramural funds to support research groups of 2-4 members. Fellowships are nonrenewable, with a maximum term of four years.

Candidates must submit a letter from a mentor or other advisor who can comment in depth on the candidate's accomplishments and potential. In addition, the application should contain the candidate's curriculum vitae, a brief research plan, 1 or 2 reprints and at least two additional reference letters. The deadline for applications is **June 30, 2003**. Applications should be sent to the attention of:

**Dr. David A. Agard**  
Chair, Keck Fellows Steering Committee  
Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics  
University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, California 94143-2240

*The Keck Fellows Program for Imaging is sponsored by the Keck Center for Advanced Microscopy at UCSF and the W.M. Keck Foundation. The University of California is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and underrepresented minorities are encouraged to apply.*